

Serial No.: 10/029,070
Attorney Docket No.: 10013446-1

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 13, 2005, claims 1, 14, 27, and 39 have been amended. Claims 1-51 are in the case. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action objected to the Specification due to minor informalities.

The Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pearce et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,468 B1).

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

Specifically, among other things, the Applicants' claimed invention includes initiating new registration ownership rights of **both** the physical and the virtual units and configuring registration to allow the part-physical and part-virtual devices to be operable at different locations. Support for these newly claimed elements can be found throughout the specification. For example, paragraph [0014] describes new registration ownership rights of the physical device and paragraph [0014] describes "...a two-part device with a physical unit and a remote virtual unit, wherein ownership of the two-part device can readily be initiated, maintained, and transferred..."

First, in contrast, Pearce et al. disclose an "...anti-piracy system...for illicit use of software..." (see Abstract of Pearce et al.) and do **not** disclose initiating new registration ownership rights of the physical unit. Although the physical unit in Pearce et al. is used during the registration process to create a unique ID, the physical unit in Pearce et al. is **not** registered with new ownership rights, like the Applicant's invention. Instead, the physical unit is used in Pearce et al. merely to create a unique association with the new software. In fact, Pearce et al. assumes that the hardware or physical unit is already in

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place, and is not new hardware (see Abstract of Pearce et al.). This is because Pearce et al. is solely concerned with software registration.

Next, although Pearce et al. disclose "...during installation, the software product generates a hardware ID that identifies the set of hardware components and sends it and a product ID to a registration authority...", Pearce et al. do not disclose the Applicants' configuring ownership registration to allow the part-physical and part-virtual devices to be operable at different locations. Instead, Pearce et al. explicitly disallows configuring ownership registration to allow the part-physical and part-virtual devices to be operable at different locations. Namely, Pearce et al. requires that "[I]f a user attempts to install the software product on another computer, the software product will recognize a different hardware composition and disable itself."

Further, with regard to claim 27, unlike the Applicants' claimed invention, Pearce et al. does not electronically associate the part-physical device with the part-virtual device before the user takes possession. Instead, Pearce et al. specifically states that "...during installation, the software product generates a hardware ID that identifies the set of hardware components." Hence, in Pearce et al., association occurs during installation of the software, which must occur after the user takes possession of the software, not before, like in the Applicants' claim 27.

As such, unlike the claimed present invention, since Pearce et al. do not disclose configuring new ownership registration, allowing the part-physical and part-virtual devices to be operable at different locations, and electronically associating the part-physical device with the part-virtual device before the user takes possession, Pearce et al. cannot anticipate the claims.

With regard to the rejections of the dependent claims, because these rejected claims depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these rejected dependent claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

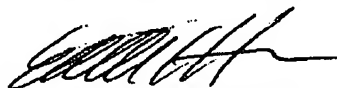
In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and

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further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (818) 885-1575. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

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Respectfully submitted,
Dated: March 13, 2006



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